

Action Item

Governmental Relations Committee

Approval of the Minutes of the August 21, 2000, Meeting

MINUTES

Governmental Relations Committee

Meeting of August 21, 2000

Committee members present	Melinda G. Wilson, <i>Chair</i> Carol Chandler Monica Lozano Evonne Seron Schulze Kyhl Smeby Howard Welinsky Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr., <i>ex officio</i> Alan S. Arkatov, <i>ex officio</i>	Other Commissioners present Phillip J. Forhan Robert A. Hanff Kyo "Paul" Jhin Velma Montoya Ralph Pesqueira
Committee member absent	Lance Izumi, <i>Vice Chair</i>	

Call to order	Committee Chair Wilson called the August 21, 2000 meeting of the Governmental Relations Committee to order at 1:42 p.m. in Room 202 of the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento, California.
----------------------	---

Approval of the minutes	Chair Wilson asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the committee meeting on June 12, 2000. A motion was so made, seconded, and the committee voted without dissent to approve the minutes as submitted.
--------------------------------	---

Legislative update, August 2000	<p>Commissioner Wilson called upon staff member Marge Chisholm to present the legislative and budget update for August 2000. Other members of the staff of the Governmental Relations unit accompanied her to the table.</p> <p>Ms. Chisholm said she had just return from a national convention where there had been favorable comment about the Commission's Website. She noted that there were a limited number of days left in the current legislative session. She said staff would report in more detail at the next meeting on bills that were passed and those that were signed or vetoed by the Governor.</p> <p>Ms. Chisholm reported on the legislation to expand the State's Cal Grant program, noting that the Legislature and Governor's Office had been in discussions about this measure for some time and it was expected to move forward. She said the measure will guarantee Cal Grants for needy students who meet certain GPA requirements.</p>
--	--

Director Fox commented that this is revolutionary legislation that may set a national example and that the Commission may want to have a more detailed discussion about the changes ahead for California student aid programs. This could include a presentation by the California Student Aid Commission and others.

Ms. Chisholm said staff would know more about the fiscal impact of the legislation at the next Commission meeting and could also discuss the Governor's merit scholarship proposal that is linked to the Cal Grant legislation.

There was a general discussion about legislative positions taken by the Commission and the fact that staff can provide copies of position letters to interested commissioners. There was also discussion about the current assessment underway at the Student Aid Commission about implementing the new Cal Grant program including working out many of the technical issues such as income-ceiling levels.

**2000-01 Budget
review**

Kevin Woolfork briefed the commissioners on the 2000-01 State Budget, noting that the new funding levels represent record increases in spending for California. He highlighted the budget for education, noting that public higher education would receive some \$9 billion, or about 12 percent of the overall budget. He also reviewed the budgets for K-12 and highlighted several higher education initiatives. He expressed optimism about future revenue projections for the State as well.

Commissioner Lozano asked if there was any way to gauge education-spending levels with various Commission recommendations and priorities.

Mr. Woolfork said the Commission adopts annually a list of legislative and budget priorities but that it does not include specific dollar amounts.

Commissioner Lozano expressed concern that, although a budget figure for a particular program or priority area may look good on paper, it may, in fact, represent serious under-funding given the actual resource need.

Following a question by Commissioner Jhin about the funding for the University of California to provide on-line Advanced Placement courses, there was a general discussion about this initiative. UC representative Judith Ellis said enrollment and completion rates in the program are doubling each year. A preliminary evaluation identified some problems, but a more systematic evaluation is underway. She said the UC college preparation staff would be available to meet with the Commission. Director Fox said he would make those arrangements.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Committee Chair Chandler adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.
